FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1900 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-1110
(202) 530-1010

Facsimile:(202) 530-1055

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO:	Examiner Hung Nguyen Group Art Unit 2851
FROM:	Shawn W. Fraser
RE:	Application No. 09/817,018--Interview

FAX NO.:	703-746-7626		
DATE:	July 17, 2003	**NO. OF PAGES:** *(including cover page)*	
TIME:		**SENT BY:**	

MESSAGE

Dear Examiner Nguyen:
Further to our telephone conversation on Tuesday (7/15), I have attached a brief summary of my comments to assist you in preparing for the interview scheduled for July 24, 2003 at 10:00am.
Regards,
Shawn Fraser
Direct: 202-721-5428

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES
PLEASE CALL 202-530-1010 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Note: We are transmitting from a Canon Model FAX-L770
(compatible with any Group I, Group II or Group III machine).

U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/817,018
Filed: March 27, 2001
Attorney Docket No.: 022560.002758

–FOR INTERVIEW PURPOSES ONLY–

The present invention includes an eleastic member connected to both of the first and second supporting members.

As acknowledged in the Official Action, the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) of Figure 11 does not disclose an elastic member connected to both the first and second supporting members.

The cited patent, U.S. Patent No. 6,118,599 (Spinali, et al.), also fails to disclose this feature. The Applicants submit that Spinali, et al. discloses that connecting barrel members 116 and 126 are formed of materials with a small thermal expansion coefficient. However, the thermal expansion coefficient simply refers to the amount of expansion in relation to the change of the temperature. Yet, the fact that the thermal expansion coefficient is not zero does not mean that it has "elasticity."

DC_MAIN 138849 v 1